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WORLD HOG NUMBERS IN 1949 AND 1950

World hog numbers at the beginning of 1950 are estimated by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations at 279,400,000 head, compared with 262,000,000 head a year earlier. This represents an increase of 7 percent and places current numbers 4 percent below the 1936-40 average. It was also the largest gain for any one of the postwar years.

Outlook for favorable feed prospects in early 1949 and continued strong demand for pork and pork products, together with the desire of some countries to attain prewar numbers, encouraged farmers to breed more animals and expand their hog operations. Removal of rationing and price controls and other restrictions in some countries were additional factors in increasing hog numbers.

HOGS: Estimated world total, by continents,
averages 1936-40 and 1941-45, annual 1949-50

Continent or area	Average	Average	1949 1/	1950 1/	Increase (+) or decrease (-)	
	1936-40	1941-45			1950	1950
					1936-40	1949
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
North America	61,400	82,900	72,200	76,100	+24	+5
Europe	76,600	54,800	58,700	66,400	-13	+13
Soviet Union	32,300	2/	15,000	19,000	-41	+27
Asia	84,100	2/	76,800	78,400	-7	+2
South America	31,300	36,500	33,400	33,600	+7	+1
Africa	3,400	3,800	4,000	4,000	+17	-
Oceania	2,100	2,500	1,900	1,900	-13	-2
Total	291,200	272,800	262,000	279,400	-4	+7
1/ Preliminary. 2/ Estimate included in world total.						

Moderate increases in hog numbers can be expected during 1950, largely in Europe and the Soviet Union, and relatively minor changes may be anticipated in other countries abroad. For those countries which depend primarily upon imported feeds for hog production, the rate of increase in hog numbers will slow down considerably. Imported supplies of grain procured after devaluation last September will be more expensive to foreign hog raisers in terms of their currencies inasmuch as the United States and Canada are among the principal suppliers.

Hog numbers in Europe, North America and the Soviet Union increased substantially during the year and minor gains occurred in Asia and South America. Africa had no change in over-all numbers, but numbers in Oceania declined slightly. The number of hogs in Africa, North and South America were considerably above their respective prewar levels, while Europe, the Soviet Union, Asia and Oceania were below.

The number of hogs on farms in the United States, as of January 1, 1950, was 6 percent above those of the previous January, reflecting the record and near-record corn crops of 1948 and 1949 and the relatively strong demand for pork and pork products. Canadian hog numbers were estimated to be 18 percent above those of a year earlier, reversing the downward trend of the previous 5 years. It also is expected that the 1950 spring farrowings in both United States and Canada will exceed those of the preceding year.

Brazilian hog numbers have been held above the prewar level because of the high price of pork and the favorable corn crop. Some increase can be expected during this year due to an excellent corn crop in 1950. Although the 1949 hog numbers in Argentina are above those of the preceding year, the severe drought of the past several months can be expected to reduce numbers since the 1950 corn crop cannot be salvaged.

Almost all of the European countries, except Italy and Spain, substantially increased their hog numbers in 1949, reflecting for the most part a greatly improved feed situation, relaxation of various types of control and a strong domestic and foreign demand for hog products. Denmark, the principal exporter of bacon, increased hog numbers by 60 percent. The Netherlands also increased its numbers by 55 percent and Belgium likewise made a sizable gain of 26 percent. All 3 countries now have more hogs than in prewar years.

The United Kingdom increased its 1949 hog numbers over 1948 by about 30 percent, and current numbers are about one-third below the 1936-40 average. The increase in 1950 is expected to be small, owing to uncertainty of feed supplies. Eire is still below prewar, but 1949 numbers increased substantially. Germany increased numbers by 38 percent and has now reached two-thirds of the prewar level. France, Sweden, and Switzerland are approaching prewar numbers, while Norway exceeds prewar.

Hog numbers in the Soviet Union increased around 27 percent, according to the best available information, and are now about 59 percent of prewar. Satellite countries in eastern and southeastern Europe are believed to be approaching, or in some instances exceeding, prewar levels. Relatively favorable grain crops, coupled with pre-determined government programs of production and enforcement, have most likely resulted in hog numbers being stepped up.

Reduced feed supplies in Australia brought about a 5 percent drop in hog numbers, now the lowest in 10 years. In New Zealand, labor shortage, high returns from sheep and cattle grazing and to a lesser degree, high taxation, are holding down an expansion in hog numbers.

The number of hogs on farms in the United States on January 1, 1950 were estimated at 60,424,000 head. Hog numbers increased for the second consecutive year and were the highest since 1946. Although numbers were up 6 percent from a year earlier and 25 percent above prewar, they were almost 10 percent below the high wartime production of ^{the} 1941-45 period.

The record high corn crop of 1948, together with high prices for hogs during 1948 and in the first half of 1949, encouraged producers to expand their hog operations. The continued favorable feed outlook, with a near record corn crop in 1949 also resulted in an increase in the 1949 fall pig crop. Further increase in numbers is anticipated, since more sows were held back for spring farrowing this year than a year earlier.

Hogs on farms in Canada on December 1, 1949 were estimated at 5,413,000 head, or 18 percent above December 1948 numbers. December 1949 hog numbers are about one-third above the prewar level, but only about 72 percent of the high wartime production level of 1941-1945. This upturn in numbers reverses the downward trend of the last 5 years.

The 1949 fall pig crop was reported to be 19 percent larger than the previous fall crop. Also according to breeding intentions of Canadian farmers in December, it is estimated that sows bred for farrowing this spring are expected to exceed those of a year earlier by about 68,000 head. As a result, the 1950 spring crop is likely to be around 13 percent larger than a year ago. The relatively favorable hog-barley ratio in 1948 and the larger part of 1949, the high price in the 1949 Canadian-United Kingdom bacon contract, and a larger domestic consumption of pork due to larger exports of beef and live cattle to the United States were the principal factors in expanding Canadian hog production during 1949.

Canadian hog operations in 1950, however, may be affected by the higher feed grain prices, particularly of barley, since the 1949 feed grain harvest was smaller. Other factors are the uncertainty of export outlets for bacon and the prospect of further price declines in 1950.

Hog numbers in Mexico are believed to have increased slightly in 1949, while estimates of early 1950 numbers are somewhat below those of a year earlier. Numbers in 1950 can be expected to decline because of the short corn and other feed grain crops last year. For the same reason, hogs also can be expected to be slaughtered at lighter weights. The 1949 drought and shortage of feed, therefore, are very likely to affect materially hog numbers and pork production in 1950.

Cuban hog numbers, according to December 31, 1949 estimates, are at the same level as in the preceding year. Price trends in the world markets and the degree of import protection given local producers by the government appear to be the factors that will determine the future increase or decrease in hog numbers.

In Brazil, hog numbers in 1950 are expected to remain somewhat near the 1949 level of 24.5 million head unless the price of pork advances. The price of pork, not under government price regulations, continues to be higher than beef, thereby limiting the widespread use of pork. However, the rise in the price of beef has narrowed the spread somewhat between beef and pork prices.

Pork production, nevertheless, can be expected to increase due to an excellent, as well as an abundant, 1950 corn crop. Exports of pork continue to be negligible and consumption is about equal to production.

Argentine hog numbers on January 1, 1950 were estimated at 3.5 million head, an increase of 18 percent over the 1947 census numbers of 3 million head. Serious drought conditions have caused marketings to increase and farrowings to be sharply curtailed since corn supplies for feeding will be limited. Although hog prices have increased, the hog-corn ratio is not favorable to expansion. No increase in numbers is contemplated and a decline is likely if drought conditions continue.

The number of hogs in the United Kingdom in June 1949 were reported at 2,811,000 head, an increase of 30 percent above the preceding June, but still more than one-third below the prewar level. Bred sow numbers in September 1949 were 21 percent larger than a year earlier, but the number of bred gilts showed a decline. However, the total number of breeding animals at that time were only about 6 percent above those of September 1948. This can be interpreted to mean that numbers will not increase as much in the coming year as they did last year and that recovery to prewar levels will not be accomplished for some time to come. The substantial increase in June hog numbers is partially due to liberalization of feed rations for pigs and United Kingdom's efforts to generally increase its meat supplies. More recently the removal of the subsidy on feedstuffs in February, and general uncertainty of availability of adequate supplies of feed appear to be the principal factors in holding down hog production in 1950. Maintenance of present numbers and further expansion in hog numbers will depend on the availability of feedgrains. If domestic feed production cannot be increased, feed supplies, in all probability, will have to be obtained primarily from non-dollar countries.

According to the June enumeration, hog numbers in Eire reached almost 675,000 head, an increase of more than 47 percent over those of the preceding year. These numbers, however, are about one-third below the prewar level. Sow numbers for breeding were reported to be 44 percent larger than a year earlier and indicate to some degree the potential for increasing numbers in 1950. Hog operations apparently could be readily expanded if feed and price relationships continue favorable. Expansion of the industry, however, depends very largely on maintenance of satisfactory trade relations with the United Kingdom. The trend of bacon exports remains uncertain at present until a satisfactory price arrangement can be worked out with the British Ministry of Food.

Hog numbers in Denmark at the beginning of 1950 were reported at 3,120,000 head, compared with 1,944,000 head last year, an increase of 60 percent. These numbers are now above the prewar level. The very substantial recovery of hog numbers during 1949 reflects the relatively improved feed situation in 1948 and 1949. This can be attributed largely to the good feed-grain harvests during those two years and to somewhat greater availability of imported feed supplies both through ECA and other financing.

UNITED KINGDOM: Number of hogs on farms, by principal classes,
1939 and 1946-49

Date	Breeding sows	Other pigs			Total
		5 months old and over	2 months old and under 5	Under 2 months	
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
1939-June	542	801	1,872	1,179	4,394
December	554	969	2,044	1,111	4,677
1946-March	220	716	625	391	1,952
June	221	581	762	391	1,955
September	200	724	629	421	1,973
December	173	728	695	262	1,859
1947-March	186	655	550	281	1,672
June	197	516	635	280	1,628
September	218	656	496	390	1,761
December	233	602	659	298	1,793
1948-March	279	583	577	442	1,881
June	318	514	846	472	2,151
September	324	801	851	627	2,603
December	305	943	1,070	461	2,779
1949-March	321	928	855	555	2,660
June	343	811	1,103	553	2,811
September	346	1,072	1,005	664	3,087

Compiled from Monthly Digest of Statistics.

DENMARK: Number of hogs on farms by principal classes,
average 1936-39, annual 1946-50

Date	Total sows	Bred sows	Suckling pigs	Pigs and slaughter hogs	Total ^{1/}
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Average 1936-39					
January	351	238	634	1,969	2,962
March	377	256	741	1,829	2,967
July	376	244	794	1,946	3,134
October	355	219	741	2,135	3,199
1946 ^{2/} -January	201	127	391	1,177	1,777
March	199	123	426	1,211	1,844
July	191	120	377	1,192	1,768
October	194	115	426	1,278	1,907
1947 ^{2/} -January	195	130	351	1,133	1,687
March	209	137	411	1,150	1,779
July	206	127	442	1,173	1,830
October	181	91	438	1,358	1,985
1948 ^{2/} -January	142	80	275	1,181	1,604
March	152	111	244	985	1,388
July	199	134	395	846	1,448
October	221	143	447	1,129	1,807
1949 ^{2/} -January	249	176	410	1,276	1,944
March	314	137	528	1,348	2,200
July	362	240	702	1,614	2,690
October	381	266	685	1,951	3,029
1950 ^{2/} -January	344	205	844	1,920	3,120

^{1/} Inclusive of boars. ^{2/} Beginning March 1946, data represent census returns for the whole country, including parishes and boroughs.

Compiled from official sources.

The number of bred sows reached 266,000 head in October, about 123,000 more than a year earlier. In November and December, however, bred animals declined by 16,000 and 61,000 head from the previous high in October, but numbers for these two months were still 85,000 and 29,000 head, respectively, above those of the previous year. This reduction is considered only a temporary setback and resulted from official and private warnings calling for a check in increase due to increasing feed prices, declining prices for pigs and devaluation of the krona.

Number of hogs produced in 1950 will depend largely on the amount of feedstuffs available, both domestic and imported. Farmers at the present time, under existing cost price relationship, would expand their hog operations if more feed were available. Present long-term programs call for some additional increase in numbers.

Hog numbers in Sweden continue the upward trend and are now very near the prewar level. Subsidies which have been graduated downward are still being paid producers. Numbers, however, are not expected to reach a point of self-sufficiency this year. Nevertheless, pork production is expected to show the largest increase of the meats in 1950. In Norway hog numbers in June were 66 percent above those of a year earlier and considerably above prewar numbers. Highly favorable price relationship between feed and hogs, increased production of domestic feeds and larger allocation of feedgrains enabled producers to expand their numbers. The government plans call for a further increase.

Netherlands hog numbers for December 1949 were reported at 1,795,000 head, an increase of 55 percent above those of a year ago. These numbers now exceed the 1936-40 average by 70,000 head. Further increases would have been possible had there been more foreign exchange available for purchase of prewar quantities of imported feed. Bred sow numbers reported totaled 139,000 head, more than one-fourth larger than those of a year earlier. This indicates that a larger number of hogs can be anticipated in 1950, if adequate feed supplies can be maintained.

Belgian hog numbers, at the beginning of 1950, reached 1,359,000 head to exceed the prewar level for the second consecutive year. The most recent numbers were about one-fourth larger than the final 1949 figures. The hog-barley and hog-potato ratios are substantially below prewar, indicating that hog production at the present time is unprofitable. Relatively large numbers of young pigs and breeding sows have been slaughtered in recent months. With prices of pork and young pigs declining, it is likely that hog production in Belgium in 1950 will not expand and numbers are likely to remain near their present level.

Hog numbers in the 4 zones of Germany, as of December 1949, are estimated to be about 40 percent above those of a year earlier. Current numbers are around 30 percent below the prewar level. Numbers in Western Germany increased by more than 43 percent, compared with December 1948. This increase reflects the decision to attain prewar numbers, greater availability of feedgrains, both domestic and foreign, feed supplies financed through ECA and other funds, and removal of rationing and price controls. The degree of

rebuilding of hog numbers is primarily dependent on the availability of feed and the price relationship between hogs and feed supplies.

Despite smaller quantities of feed due to the 1949 drought, hog numbers in France were estimated in the fall to be 5 percent above those of a year earlier. These numbers, however, are still about 6 percent below the 1938 level. Sow numbers, on the other hand, are slightly above those of last year and prewar. If adequate supplies of feed are available, it is likely that hog numbers will be increased further in 1950.

In Spain hog numbers at the beginning of 1950 were believed to be somewhat below early 1949 numbers, but perhaps above or near the prewar level. The drought during the first 8 months of the year caused a larger number to be marketed and probably reduced the number of hogs in the country. However, weather conditions during the last 4 months of the year were very favorable and conducive to better growing conditions.

Notwithstanding some liquidation of hogs in Portugal due to last summer's drought, it is now believed that current numbers are somewhat above a year earlier and the prewar level. Their livestock development program provides for the establishment of measures and practices designed generally to increase the number of all types of livestock, including hogs.

Austrian hog numbers are reported at a postwar high of 1.9 million head, compared with 2.8 million head in prewar. A favorable feed situation, high pork and lard prices, and the release of 20 percent of all domestically produced meat for free sale at the end of 1949 contributed largely to farmer interest in hog breeding during the year. Bred sows are reported to have increased by almost 17 percent over a year earlier. If these conditions continue in 1950, further increases in hog numbers can be anticipated.

Switzerland's hog numbers in April 1949 reached 887,000 head, an increase of almost 16 percent over the preceding year. This increase is reported to have continued and numbers are now approaching the prewar level. Holding out of hogs late in 1948, good prices for young pigs and an abundance of feed were factors that stimulated hog production. The number of brood sows are about 10 percent larger than prewar. In Italy hog numbers in 1949 are believed to have equaled or exceeded those of the 1936-40 period. The relatively large number of hogs, particularly suckling pigs, contributed to the sizable decline in prices. Consequently, hog numbers can be expected to drop off in 1950. It is also reported that a sizable reduction has occurred in sow numbers. Hog numbers in Greece, as of December 1949, were about 4 percent larger than those of a year earlier and are now close to the prewar level.

Hog numbers in Czechoslovakia increased over those of 1949 and are perhaps somewhat near their prewar numbers. New trade agreement with the Soviet Union is purported to have made shipments of grain available. Other satellite countries in eastern and southeastern Europe are also believed to be experiencing an upward trend in hog numbers and in some instances may be exceeding their prewar numbers. Generally, favorable grain crops and determined efforts by the government to increase numbers undoubtedly have resulted in a step-up of hog operations in those countries during 1949.

Larger feed supplies, together with rigid production programs and livestock goals, have enabled the Soviet Union to increase 1949 hog numbers around 27 percent above those of the preceding year. Notwithstanding a substantial increase in 1949, their numbers are still more than one-third below the 1938 level. The goal established for hog numbers has not been attained.

Hog numbers in Africa, at the beginning of this year, were believed to have been maintained at the early 1949 level. Although numbers in Madagascar, French Morocco, Mozambique and Tunisia increased, these gains were offset by losses in Algeria and Southern Rhodesia. In nearly all of the African countries except in Madagascar, Angola and Southern Rhodesia, hog numbers have attained or exceeded prewar levels.

Australian hog numbers, as of March 31, 1949, had dropped to 1,196,000 head, a decline of 5 percent from a year earlier. Although the 1949 numbers were only 4 percent below the prewar average, they reached their lowest level in 10 years. Minor increases were reported in the important hog producing States of Queensland and New South Wales, but these were offset by the decreases in the minor hog producing areas and in South Australia. One of the major causes of the continued decline is the increased diversion of large quantities of whole milk to uses other than butter manufacturing which has resulted in reduced supplies of skim milk and buttermilk, a major source of pig feeds.

Hog numbers in New Zealand at the beginning of 1950 were not expected to show any material change from the 545,000 head reported in the 1949 census. Present numbers continue to be about 28 percent below the prewar level. Bred sow numbers at this time are practically the same as a year earlier. Labor shortage, high returns from sheep and cattle grazing and, to some degree, high taxation, appear to be some of the more important factors in holding down expansion of hog operations.

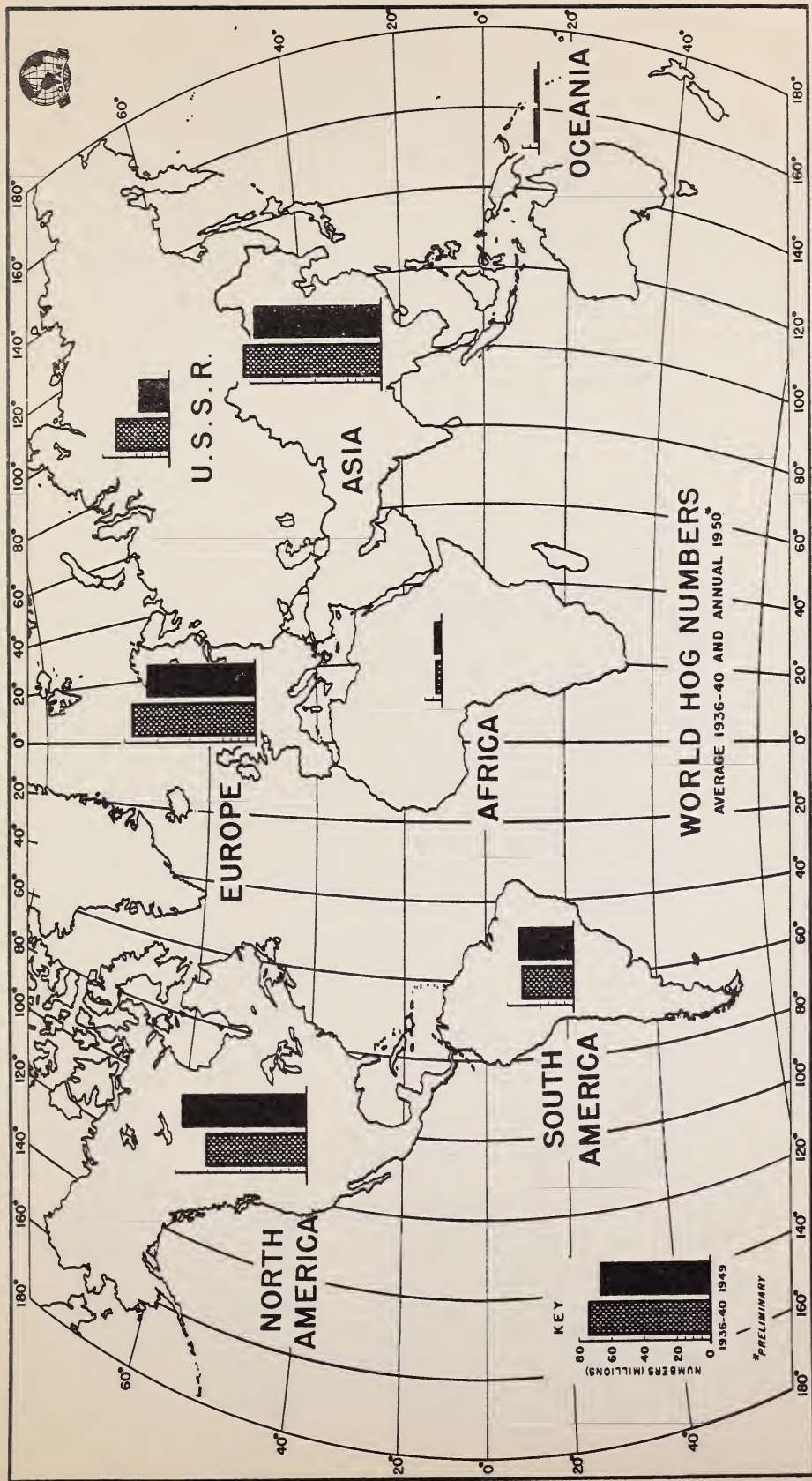
In Asia, hog numbers, principally in British Malaya, Burma, French Indo-China, Japan, Formosa, Indonesia, and Philippine Islands increased in 1949 and the other Asiatic countries are believed to have remained at 1948 levels. Those countries in which increases occurred are for the most part below their respective prewar numbers.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, Elmer A. Reese, John H. Richter, and C. M. Purves.

HOGS: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1941-45, annual 1945-1950

Continent and country	Month of estimate	Average		1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
		1936-40	1941-45						
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada.....	Dec. 1	1/	4,078	7,501	7,636	5,459	5,381	4,604	5,413
El Salvador.....	July		559	460	382	283	348	-	-
Guatemala.....	July		213 1/3	274	-	-	374	-	-
Honduras.....	July		235 2/3	247	-	323	399	400	-
Mexico.....	Dec. 1	1/3 1/4	965 3/5	5,212	5,329	5,314	-	5,600	-
Nicaragua.....		1/3	250 5/5	225	-	-	250	-	250
United States.....	Jan. 1		48,352	66,383	59,331	61,301	55,028	57,128	60,424
Cuba.....	Dec. 31	1/3	904 3/3	825	6/	1,620	1,700	1,800	-
Estimated total.....			61,400	82,900	76,300	76,700	70,500	72,200	76,100
EUROPE									
Austria.....	Dec. 1	1/3	2,849	1,915	1,697 1/1	1,030 1/1	1,490 1/1	1,724 1/1	1,927
Belgium.....	Jan. 1	1/	1,005	545 1/1	635 1/1	735 1/1	776 1/1	1,076	1,359
Bulgaria.....	Dec. 31	1/3	833	912	800	800	825	-	-
Czechoslovakia.....	Jan. 1	3/	3,174	3,025	3,097	2,362	2,944	2,670	3,329
Denmark.....	Jan.		2,997	1,919 1/1	1,819 1/9	1,810 1/9	1,687 1/9	1,604 1/9	1,944 1/9
Eire.....	June		978	505	426	479	457	675	-
Finland.....	Mar. 1	10/	485	266	229	254	335	304	409
France.....	Fall	1/	7,034 1/1	4,738 1/1	4,080 1/1	4,386 1/1	5,335 1/1	5,678 1/1	6,727
Germany 11/.....	Dec. 1	1/3	18,721	13,750	-	7,450 1/1	8,400 1/1	9,400	13,000
Greece.....	Dec. 31	1/3	532	-	-	403	490	509	530
Hungary.....	Spring		3,620	3,554 1/1	1,114 1/1	1,315	2,119	3,250	-
Italy.....	July	5/	3,750	3,380	3,036	3,200	3,500	3,750	-
Luxembourg.....	Dec. 1	1/	148	92	60	88	95	100	115
Netherlands.....	Dec. 1	1/	1,725 3/3	860	-	981	1,062	937	1,195
Norway.....	June 20		393	210	195	257	259	248	-
Poland.....	June 30	5/	9,684	-	-	4,000	-	-	-
Portugal.....	Dec. 31	1/5	1,206 5/5	1,253	1,100	-	1,200	-	-
Rumania.....	Dec. 31	1/3	2,640	-	1,100	1,389	1,459	-	-
Spain.....	Dec. 31	1/5	4,944 3/5	5,146	5,000	4,676	-	-	-
Sweden.....	Summer		1,292	994	1,079	1,165	1,189	1,195	-
Switzerland.....	April		915	672	698	654	710	767	-
United Kingdom.....	June		4,380	2,110	2,152	1,955	2,151	2,811	-
Yugoslavia.....	Dec. 31	1/	3,238	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated total.....			76,600	54,800	48,300	43,500	51,100	58,700	66,400
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....									
	Jan. 1	5/	32,300	-	-	10,400	8,600	12,000	15,000





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